

ARTICLES

TO BE

INQUIRED OF, ¹⁸

Throughout the Arch-Deaconry of
CHICHESTER.

Given out by the Right Worshipfull

JAMES MARSH, D. D.

Arch. Deacon of CHICHESTER.

Anno Domini, 1641.



LONDON,

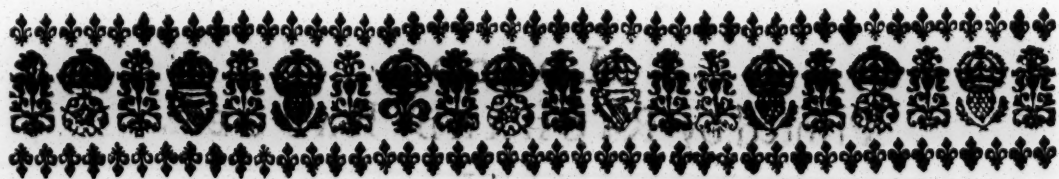
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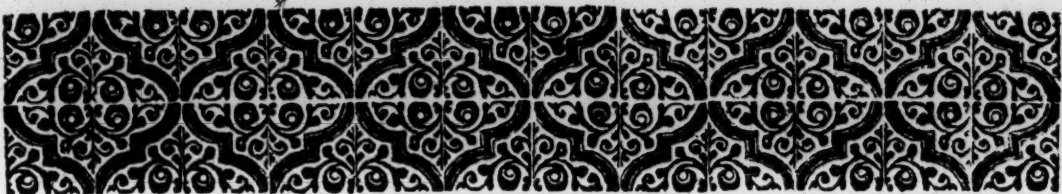
1641.



*The forme of the Oath to be ministred to the
Church-Wardens, and Sidemen.*

YOU shall sweare that you, and every one of you shall diligent inquiry make concerning all and every of these Articles given you in charge, and without favour or malice, affection or partiality to any mans person, you shall true presentment make of every default, as far as it shall come to your knowledge, that hath beene committed in your Parishes respectively against them: And herein you shall deale uprightly, fully and truly, having the feare of God before your eyes, and an earnest zeale to suppress sin, superstition and error. So help you God.





Articles Concerning the Churches, Chappels of Ease, and Church-yards.

1 **W**hat Churches have you for Divine Service? what Chappels of ease belonging to them: in what repaire are they? are the wals and roose firme, the windowes well glazed and unbroken, the floozes decently paved, hath any part of them bene demolished, or put to profane uses?

2 Is your Steeple furnished with Bels? have any of them been taken down and sold, by whom, and when?

3 Is your Church swept, and kept clean at least once a week, the wals whited, the doores kept lockt, the porch not made a lodging for beggars?

4 Are your Pewes built unifoꝛme, and decent, are not some higher than others, in such a manner that they are a hinderance to their neighbours in hearing Divine Service?

5 How is your Church-yard fenced, hath there been encroachment made upon any part of it, is it kept free from cattell breaking in upon it, especially swine that root up the graves of dead bodies?

6 Have there been kept in your Church, Chappell, or Church-yard any Plays, Feasts, Church-ales, Tempozall Courts, Gusters, Meetings for rates, taxes, levies, especially at the Communion Table by the Parishioners?

Of Church Ornaments, Vtensils, Possessions.

1 **H**ave you a strong chest or box for almes, for the poore, with 3 keys, & locks to it, one for the Parson or Vicar, the other for the Churchwardens: what font have you for Baptisme, is it conveniently placed towards the entrance of the Church: have you a convenient Pew to reade Divine Service in, a Bible in the largest folio, a Common prayer book, the book of Homilies prescribed by authority, a faire Surplisse, or two, to be used by the Minister and him that assists him in the administration of the Sacrament, have you a good Pulpit conveniently placed, where the auditoꝛy may best heare the Preacher, Is it decently adoꝛned with a faire cloth and cushion?

2 Have you a Register book in parchment for Chztnings, Weddings, Burials, is it carefully kept, and a true transcript thereof brought in yearly into the Bishops Registry, a month after our Lady day in March?

3 Have you a good and convenient Communion Table, have you a de-

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cent covering for it of silk, or cloth, or some good stuffe, and a cleane linnen covering in time of celebration of the Sacrament, have you a faire Communion cup and flagon, with a dish for the bread?

4 Have any ancient monuments in your Church been defaced, the inscriptions razed, the brasse pulled off, the stones taken away, by whō?

5 Is there a dwelling House, and Glebe belonging to your Minister, is it kept in good repaire together with the outhouses belonging to it: Is there an exact Terrier made of the land and pensions, and tithes belonging to it: Is this Terrier made in parchment, & brought into the Bishops Registry, what timber trees grow upon this Glebe: have any been sold and by whom?

Concerning the Clergy.

1 Is your Minister a Parson or a Vicar, doth he reside upon his Benefice, if not how is he dispensed with for his absence, what Curate keepeth he, how licensed, and what releife gives he to the poore in his absence, have you besides the Curate any Preacher or Lecturer, and how authorized?

2 Is your Minister of honest, sober, exemplary life; a maintainer of love and peace amongst his neighbours, not scandalous by haunting of Tinnies, Ale-houses, Tavernes, by using unlawfull games, keeping loose and debauched company?

3 Doth your Minister use decent and comely apparell according to the habit of his calling, not wearing long haire, deep ruffles, falling bands down to his shoulders, doth hee keep himselfe to his calling, and not turne farmer, use bodily labour in a servile manner, and unfitting for a man set apart for Divine Service?

4 Is your Minister carefull to reclaime Recusants, which have joyned themselves to the Roman Communion, and Schismatics and Separatists, which have left our Communion: does he performe Divine Service orderly, as he is directed by the common Prayer book, without additions & alterations of his own: does he read the Letany upon Wednesdaves, and Frydaves, does he use such garments as he is enjoyned, the Surplisse, and the hood proper to his degree, if he be a Graduate?

5 Doth he preach in a gown, not in a riding or ambulatory cloak: doth he abstaine in his Sermons, from pointing out particular men unto damnation, and inveighing against particular and personall delinquents: doth he preach Christ crucified, and obedience to lawfull authority: forbearing such points of subtilty and high speculation, as neither conduce to peace nor godlinesse, doth he do this constantly, if he be a licensed preacher, if not, doth he procure sermons once every month at least?

6 Doth your Minister keep the accustomed perambulation in the Rogation week, informing his Parishioners not only in the civile use, for the pre-

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seruation of the bounds of the Parish, but the religious, to pray unto God for his blessing upon the fruits of the earth, which are then in their spring?

7 Doth your Minister, Curate, or Lecturer appoint at any time any Fast, Prophecies, or exercises not enioyned by authority: doth he use conventicles where the doctrine and government of the Church have been depraved, or spoken against: Is he a depraver of them himselfe, does your Preacher or Lecturer read Divine Service before his Sermon, doth he sometimes administer the Sacraments in his own person?

Of the Sacrament of Baptisme.

1 Doth your Minister teach the people, not to defer the bringing their childzen unto Baptisme, beyond the ordinary time accustomed, least any should dye without this seale of the new Covenant; doth he baptize the child at the Font in cleane pure water, doth he take it in his armes, and signe it with the signe of the crosse; does he require Godfathers and Godmothers, and give such directions to them for the education of the child in the Christian Religion, as is prescribed in the Common prayer book?

2 In case of necessity, where your Minister hath been reasonably required thereunto, hath he refused to go, and baptize privately, have any childzen by his default died without Baptisme?

Of Confirmation and Catechisme.

Is your Minister carefull to instruct the youth and ignorant persons in this Parish, in the grounds of the Christian Religion set forth in the Catechisme appointed by the Church; does he after they are able to give an account of their Faith, by vertue of these instructions, received by Catechisme, admonish their Parents to bring them to the Bishop, there to receive by prayer, such farther Confirmation as may strengthen them in the Baptismall grace received?

Of the Sacrament of the Lords Supper.

1 Is this blessed Sacrament administered upon the first Sunday of every Month, or at least thrice in the yeere, whereof Easter to be one; is it reverently performed, and the words of Consecration solemnly pronounced; and in case the Bread and Wine faile, renewed over them before they be distributed?

2 Doth your Minister deliver this Sacrament to any standing or sitting and not kneeling; doth he first receive it himselfe, after deliver it to each communicant severally, using the forme of words prescribed?

Doth he admit to this Sacrament, any excommunicate person, any publike or notorious scandalous offender, without satisfaction first given to the Church; doth he admit any under age, not able to give an account of their Faith?

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Of Marriage.

Doth your Minister marry any without asking the banns three severall times openly in the Church, unlesse there bee a dispensation procured before marriage to the contrary?

2 Doth hee solemnize the marriage openly in the body of the Church, at the times and houres appointed, doth hee use the ordinary prayers and ceremonies of the ring and ioyning of hands prescribed in the Common prayer booke?

3 Have you a Table set up in your Church of the degrees of affinity or consanguinity prohibited by Law: have any notwithstanding adventured to marry within the degrees prohibited?

4 Are there any in your Parish, who being lawfully married live in separation, without order of Law: or who being legally divorced, keep company with any other at bed, or at board?

Of Visitation of the Sicke.

1 **I**s your Minister diligent in visiting the Sicke, does he comfort them, and pray with them the prayers of the Church, adding such other devotions of his own, as the necessity of the Sicke person requires?

2 Doth hee exhort them not to let any haynous sin lye heavy upon their consciences: doth hee at any time reveale any thing received by way of Confession, contrary to the duty of his place: doth he stir them up to lay up Treasure for themselves in Heaven by charitable works, and disposing some part of their goods in honour of him, that gave them all: does hee lastly seasonably administer the holy Sacrament unto them to strengthen their Faith against the terrores of death, whilst they have their senses and reason?

Of Burials.

1 **D**oes your Minister refuse to bury any dying within the Church after notice reasonably given unto him thereof: or doth he admit murderers of themselves, and persons cast out of the Church by Excommunication, unto Christian Buriall in consecrated ground: does hee use any forme of Buriall, but such as is prescribed in the Common Prayer Booke?

2 Are the graves digged deepe enough to remove away annoyance from the living: are there no more admitted to be buried in the Church or Chancell than the ground will receive; without taking up of bodies and removing them before they be fully consumed?

Of Churching of Women.

Doth your Minister observe the order of the Service booke, for the Churching of Women after child-bed: doth he cause the Woman to come,

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ome, and knéele as neare to the Communion Table as shee can, and to receive, if there be a Communion, in acknowledgement of her greater blessing of safe deliverie?

Of Schoole-masters, Physitians, and Chirurgions.

1 **H**Ave you a free Schoole in your Parish, is any part of the maintenance of it kept back, or otherwise imployed than to the use of the schoole, by whom and how?

2 Does your Schoole-master instruct his scholars in the grounds of Catechisme: is he conformable to the Religion established in the Church of England: Doth any presume to teach in your Parish unlicensed by the Ordinary?

3 What Physitians or Chirurgions have you in your Parish: have they bene trained up in the studies of Physick or Chirurgery: how have they been licensed?

Of Parish-Clarke and Sextens.

1 **H**Ave you a fit Parish-Clarke, aged above 20 yeeres at the least, able to write and to read; hath he taken his Oath before the Ordinary: is he serviceable in the Church to his Minister?

2 Does your Clarke or Sexten doe their duty in keeping the Church cleane, the doores locked, not suffering boys to play in it: is any thing lost, or spoiled in the Church through his default: have any of them presumed above their places to Church Women, Bury the Dead, or the like?

Of Church-Wardens.

1 **A**Re you the Church-Wardens lawfully chosen, have you taken your Oath before the Ordinary for that purpose: do you looke carefully unto it, that Order and Decency be observed in time of Divine Service: do you take notice who are absent, who forbear comming to the Sacrament, being of yeeres fit to receive: do you diligently enquire of such, as remaine in Tavernes, Innes or Ale-houses, in time of Prayer or Sermons?

2 Do you know of any Legacy withholden given to the Church or Poore, or mending of the High-ways: in whose hands is it, by whom given, or withholden?

3 Does any threaten you for doing your duty, in presenting, or pervert you, by perswading you to use equivocation with your Oath?

4 Have any Church-Wardens before you not made a iust account of the Church goods: have they faithfully distributed the almes of the Church to the use of the Poore: have they failed in their presentments: or have they presented any thing not yet redressed?

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Concerning the Parishioners.

1 **D**O your Parishioners frequent the Church and behaue themselves reuerently there : do they kneele when the Confession, the ten Commandements, and all Prayers and Collects are read : do they stand up at the reading of the Creed and the holy Gospell ?

2 Do any being admonished thereof, refuse to send their children or servants to be Catechized at the times appointed for it : doe any, sent, refuse to come, or come, refuse to bee Catechized : do all aboue sixteen yeres of age receiue the blessed Sacrament of the Lords Supper, thrice e-very yere, whereof once at Easter, and do they receiue it kneeling ?

3 What Popish Recusantes are there in your Parish or other Sectaries, which refuse to hold Communion with our Church : present their names, whether they be parishioners or sojourners, and whether they stand excommunicate or no : do they labour to seduce and withdraw others from the Religion professed in the Church of England, and haue they being required it, refused to take the Oath of Allegiance ?

4 Do any of your parishioners hold and frequent priuate conventicles, speak against the settled Government and Common prayer here in England established : do they maintain Brownists, Anabaptists, Libertines, or the like, do any disperse defamatory libels to that purpose ?

5 What persons standing excommunicate, presume notwithstanding to come to Church to Diuine Service or Sermons : who do wittingly and usually keepe them company ?

6 Do any of your Parish use to buy and sell, keepe open shop, exercise any trade upon Sundais or Holy daies : haue any profaned such dayes by gaming, drinking, or dancing in time of Diuine Service : is the fift of November kept holy according to the Law in that behalfe, that the memory of that great deliberance may ever with thankfulness be preserved ?

7 Haue any slandered your Minister to the scandal of his calling : laid violent hands on him, or stricken him, or any other in the Church, or Church yard ?

8 Are there any, who not being in holy Orders, do adventure to Preach or performe any Ministeriall or Priestly office in the Church : or are there any, who having taken Orders, haue relinquished the same, using another kind of life ?

9 Haue any of your parish suppressed the will, or administered the goods of the dead without lawfull authority : are there any wills approb'd, or goods not administered ?

10 Haue any in your parish harboured any women begotten with child unlawfully, and suffered them to depart, befoze they haue been punished for
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their offence : are there any known to you by common fame, to have committed incest, adultery, or fornication, or are there any reputed common drunkards, swearers, blasphemers, bawds : or vehemently suspected for the same ?

Of Ecclesiasticall Officers.

1 **H**ath any Ecclesiasticall Judge, Surrogate, or any other Officer belonging to the Ecclesiasticall Court, taken, or exacted greater fees than are due and accustomed : and is there a Table of the rates of all fees set up in the Courts and Offices ?

2 Have you heard of any Ecclesiasticall Judge or Officer, which hath taken any money of any Recusant in your Parish, or any other offender, or made any Composition with any such to suppress or withhold an excommunication, or to forbear to punish them for any crime of Ecclesiasticall cognizance : what summes have been so taken, by whom, and to whom delivered ?

3 Is your Countrey overburthened with Apparatozs : what number of them are there : have they taken rewards or fees of men, to save their journeys to the Ecclesiasticall Courts : have they summoned any without a Presentment or Citation, first had to make them appeare at the Court : have they threatened to prosecute any, and taken bribes to desist : what moneys have they so taken ?

4 Hath any Apparatoz, or any other offered to draw up the Presentments for you, and so have made it a matter of forme, not a serious businesse for the correcting of vice, and the cherishing true Religion and Godlinesse ? If any have made any such offence, let him be presented, that he may receive condigne punishment.

FINIS.

